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MGFA-3128

16 September 1949

Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

Chief, Frankfurt Operations Base

Operational  
Target Coverage

MGKA-10227 and MGKW-2551 (top of page 15)

1. I regret that I could not answer your memorandum earlier, but Camlet spent a week in England at the invitation of the Labor Party and I was not able to see him until 13 September.

2. I have discussed your suggestion with Camlet. He is willing to do anything we suggest, especially if we pay for it, but he stated that he did not see the necessity for an arrangement of the kind you had in mind. According to him, his present reporting staff gathers just about all the information that is available on German political developments. Due to space limitations and also because the general reading public has not shown too great an interest in detailed articles on political developments, such as the deliberations of the Constitutional Assembly at Bonn, his paper publishes not more than a quarter of the material submitted by his political reporters. The difference is even greater on the political material submitted by the press agencies (DPA and Södena), who, according to Camlet, produce in such volume that approximately ten percent of their contribution is all he can use in his paper.

3. Camlet proposed that if we are interested in detailed political background material, he could give us copies of almost all of the material which reaches him and which he is not using anyway, for the reasons outlined above.

4. Similar arrangements could be made, I am sure, also with the Frankfurt edition of the U S overt "Neue Zeitung",  
[ ]'s paper in Mainz, and probably with the SPD Pressdienst.

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We could also get direct distribution from DPA - so if ORE wants political information we can really flood them. The question is, who is going to read, process, and translate all that material here. Who will read it in Washington is, luckily, not our problem.

5. However, before embarking upon any such ambitious venture, I suggest that ORE prepare a brief summary of their requirements on the Western Zones of Germany, similar to their requirements guide on the Soviet Zone, which was received here as an enclosure to NGKA-10139. I would also like to have FBM's suggestions in this connection.

6. With reference to the criticism contained in the paragraph on top of page 15 of MGKW-2551, it seems to me that the meetings of the Constitutional Assembly have been covered in a timely manner and in great detail in reports to the Department of the Army by the Civil Affairs Division, OMGUS. There is also a weekly cable from ODI, OMGUS to the Department of the Army in which the political developments of the week are summarized in considerable detail. I completely agree with the ORE opinion that "events of such obvious importance should be covered as a matter of course", but submit that the event referred to was covered fully by U S MG representatives, at least one of whom, Dr. Hans Simons of CAD, attended every meeting of the Constitutional Assembly.

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